



***For Immediate Release***

## **Utahns Urged to Stay “Energy Wise” Through Fall and Winter**

**SALT LAKE CITY – (September 15, 2004)** – With summer winding down and the PowerForward energy conservation alerts coming to an end, EnergyWise officials urge Utahns to continue practicing energy conservation throughout the fall and winter.

Summer is a critical time to save energy because electricity use peaks during the hottest months of the year, putting immense pressure on electricity supplies and the transmission system. Utahns responded well this summer to conservation tips broadcast through EnergyWise spots on television and in movie theaters, and by following the PowerForward alert system broadcast with weather reports. Conservation efforts help reduce the peak demand for electricity, keep homes and businesses cool during the hot summer months, make most efficient use of the electric infrastructure, and lower our power bills.

The ethic of conservation should continue throughout the year, however, according to EnergyWise program manager Lisa Yoder. “As the days grow shorter and darker, we turn lights on earlier and leave them on longer. Fall is a great time to switch regular incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, which use one fourth of the energy of incandescent bulbs and can last ten times longer.”

Utahns should prepare for cooler weather by weatherizing air conditioning units, winterizing evaporative coolers, and insulating the duct where the evaporative cooler’s air enters the home. Sealing homes is critical to saving energy. “A sealed home requires less energy to heat and keep warm,” said Yoder. “Caulk, weather stripping, insulation and storm windows all work to keep heated air from leaking outside.”

Other tips to save energy through fall and winter include:

- Changing your furnace filter at least twice a year to ensure your furnace runs efficiently.
- Installing a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature in your home while you’re asleep or out of the house.

Reducing energy consumption could result in lower monthly utility bills, and helps reduce the strain put on utility systems by Utah’s steadily growing population.

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**EnergyWise** is a partnership between the Utah Energy Office, a division of the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, and public and private utility companies. **EnergyWise** strives to establish an energy conservation ethic among Utahns encompassing all forms of energy including natural gas, electricity, and motor fuel; and seeks to establish itself as the premier source of energy conservation information in the State of Utah. **PowerForward**, the forerunner of **EnergyWise** and one of its programs, is a summertime energy alert system designed to let the public know when the electricity infrastructure is under stress and conservation is critical.

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